

GLOSSARY

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: The rigorous combination of management, research, and monitoring so that credible information is gained and management activities can be modified by experience.

AIR QUALITY: The composition of air with respect to quantities of pollution therein; used most frequently in connection with "standards" of maximum acceptable pollutant concentrations. Used instead of "air pollution" when referring to programs.

AIRSHED: A geographic area based on watershed boundaries that, because of topography, meteorology, and/or climate, is frequently affected by the same air mass.

APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT

RESPONSE: The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety, the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions, natural and cultural resource management objectives, protection priorities, and values to be protected.

The evaluation must also include an analysis of the context of the specific fire within the overall local, geographic area, or national wildland fire situation.

CANOPY: The stratum containing the crown of the tallest vegetation present, living or dead, usually above 20 feet.

CATASTROPHIC (Severe wildland fire): Fire that burns more intensely than the natural or historical range of variability, thereby fundamentally changing the ecosystem, destroying communities and/or rare or threatened species/habitat, or causing unacceptable erosion.

COVER: The area on the ground covered by the combined aerial parts of plants expressed as a percent of the total area.

CRITICAL HABITAT: 1) Specific areas within the habitat a species occupies at the time it is listed under the Endangered Species Act that have physical or biological features a) that are essential to the conservation of the species and b) that may require special management considerations or protection, and 2) specific areas outside the habitat a species occupies at the time it is listed that the Secretary of the Interior determines are essential for the species' conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were important in past human events. Cultural resources consist of 1) physical remains, 2) areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains, and 3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource.

DEPENDENT: An animal species that required a certain vegetative community (or habitat) type during part of its life cycle.

DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY: The kind, amount, and proportion of vegetation that best meets land use objectives for a particular site and which must be within the site's capability to produce.

DUFF: The partly decayed organic matter on the forest floor.

ECOSYSTEM: An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment.

ECOREGION: Relatively large units of land or water containing a distinct assemblage of natural communities and species, with boundaries that approximate the original extent of natural communities prior to major land-use change. Others have defined ecoregions as areas of ecological potential based on combinations of biophysical parameters such as climate and topography.

EMISSION REDUCTION: A strategy for controlling smoke from prescribed fires that minimizes the amount of smoke output for unit area treated.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA): A systematic environmental analysis of a BLM activity used to determine whether the activity would have a significant impact on the quality of the environment; if so, an environmental impact statement would be required.

ENVIRONMENT: The complex surroundings of an item or area of interest, such as air, water, natural resources, and their physical conditions (temperature, humidity).

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION: A policy and program designed to mitigate the adverse effects of fire on the soil-vegetation resource in a cost-effective and expeditious manner and to minimize the possibility of wildland fire recurrence or invasion of weeds.

FIRE MANAGEMENT: Activities required for the protection of burnable wildland values from fire and the use of prescribed or wildland fire to meet land management objectives.

FIRE REGIME CONDITION CLASS: Based on coarse scale national data, Fire Regime Condition Classes measure general wildfire risk as follows:

Class 1: Fire regimes in this Fire Condition Class are generally within historical ranges.

Class 2: Fire regimes on these lands have been moderately altered from their historical range by either increased or decreased fire frequency.

Class 3: Fire regimes on these lands have been significantly altered from their historical return interval.

See Appendix A.3 for additional information.

FUEL: All the dead and living material that will burn. This includes grasses, dead branches and pine needles on the ground, as well as standing live and dead trees. Also included are minerals near the surface, such as coal, that will burn during a fire and human-built structures.

FUELBREAK: A wide strip with a low amount of fuel, usually grass, in a brush or wooded area to serve as a line of fire defense.

FUEL TYPE: An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION: The removal of dangerously high amounts of fuels in areas where the negative impacts of wildland fire are greatest.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Species that have been introduced into an environment in which they did not evolve and thus usually have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread.

LONG-TERM: Ten to twenty years.

MITIGATION MEASURES: Means taken to avoid, compensate for, rectify, or reduce the potential adverse impacts of an action.

MONITORING: The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

MOSAIC: The intermingling of plant communities and their successional stages. Frequently, fuel treatment projects strive to create a mosaic of plant communities.

NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS): A legal limit on the level of atmospheric contamination. The level is established as the concentration limits needed to protect the public against adverse effects on public health and welfare, with an adequate safety margin.

NOXIOUS WEED: A plant that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and its public health. Noxious weeds are designated and regulated by various State and Federal laws. In most cases, noxious weeds are also nonnative species.

PRESCRIBED BURNING: The planned application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state under specific conditions of fuels, weather, and other variables, to allow the fire to remain in a predetermined area and to achieve site-specific fire and resource management objectives.

PUBLIC LAND: Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management

REHABILITATION: Short-term actions taken following fire to stabilize soils and encourage rapid establishment of vegetative cover.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: A multiple-use plan that provides management direction for all Bureau of Land Management resources within a Field Office. It is often supplemented by more detailed, site-specific management plans for a particular land use activity, such as livestock grazing.

RESTORATION: A long-term landscape-based approach to changing the ecological health of the rangelands, which requires implementation of a set of actions, that promotes plant community diversity and structure to encourage communities to be more resilient to future disturbance and invasive species.

RIPARIAN: A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence. Lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not exhibit the presence of vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil (BLM Manual 1737).

SENSITIVE SPECIES: A list of animal and plant species that were designated by the BLM State Director in cooperation with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. It is BLM policy to give these species the same protection as Federal candidate species in BLM Manual 6840.06.

SHORT-TERM: Five years or less.

SHRUB: A woody perennial plant differing from a perennial herb by its persistent and woody stem; and from a tree by its low stature and habit of branching from the base.

SPECIAL DESIGNATION AREA: Land that contains natural and cultural resource features that have been recognized by law, Presidential Proclamation or through the BLM planning process as being unique, important and deserving of some form of special management.

SPECIES COMPOSITION: The relative abundance of one plant species to another using a common measurement; the proportion (percentage) of various species in relation to the total on a given area.

SUPPRESSION: All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire beginning with its discovery.

THREATENED SPECIES: Plant or animal species that are not in danger of extinction but are likely to become so within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

UNDERBURN: A fire that consumes surface fuels but not trees and shrubs.

VEGETATION COMMUNITY: A kind of existing plant community with distinguishable characteristics described in terms of the present vegetation that dominates the aspect or physiognomy of the area.

VEGETATIVE REGENERATION: Development of new above ground plants from surviving plant parts, such as by sprouting from a root crown or rhizomes. Even if plants form their own root system, they are still genetically the same as the parent plant.

VISUAL RESOURCES: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures and other features).

WILDERNESS: An area established by the Federal Government and administered either by the Forest Service, USDA or National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, or Bureau of Land Management, DOI, in order to conserve its primeval character and influence for public enjoyment, under primitive conditions, in perpetuity.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS: Those lands that have been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in section 603(a) of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

WILDFIRE: A fire occurring on wildland that is not meeting management objectives and thus requires a suppression response.

WILDLAND: An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

WILDLAND FIRE: Any fire occurring on the wildlands, regardless of ignition source, damages, or benefits.

WILDLAND FIRE USE: A naturally ignited wildland fire that is managed to accomplish specific predated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE: The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.